

The Air Force Strings

In addition to a full performing schedule, members of the Strings actively perform in the Chamber Players Series. Chamber music performances at the Anderson House in Washington, D.C. have unfortunately come to a close. Musicians from the Strings appeared in the last concert at the Anderson House Museum in the Chamber Players Series on May 24, performing Dvorak's *Bass Quintet*, Brahms' *String Sextet No. 2* and CMSgt William Popp's *Suite* for accordion and string quartet. The performers included CMSgt Popp, MSgts Paul Swantek, William Hones and Deborah Volker, and TSgts Vivian Podgains, Jessica Dan, Erin Eyles, Cleveland Chandler, Bryce Bunner and Mari Uehara. In CMSgt Popp's piece, three of the four movements of the suite are based on Greek dance rhythms. The first movement is structured after the 'halimatiano,' a lively line dance in 7/8 time. The second movement is a 'zeimbekiko,' which is a slow, expressive solo dance where a male dancer improvises movements (though there was no dancer at the Anderson House at this premiere performance.) The fourth movement is another fast dance in 9/4 time. Of interest, although the beats could easily be grouped in three groups of three, the Greeks divide them into one

group of three and three groups of two, giving a breath in each measure. TSgt Dan performed a violin recital at the Anderson House Museum on May 10, performing Mozart's *Sonata in G*, Brahms' *Sonata No. 2*, Beethoven's *Sonata No. 8* and Wieniawski's *Polonaise in D*. The Strings have enjoyed performing chamber music at the Anderson House, and although this marks the end of performances there, the Chamber Players Series will continue in the fall.

The Strings returned from Iowa recently, where they joined the Airmen of Note and members of the Singing Sergeants, Concert Band and Support Staff for a presentation of *Remembering the Glenn Miller AAF Orchestra 1943-45*. This special performance was given in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Glenn Miller Birthplace Society in Clarinda, Iowa. The orchestra offered special tributes to members of the Miller family, who were present at the event.

Congratulations to Strolling Leader SMSgt Jane Bockenek! She was selected for promotion last year, and she achieved the rank on July 1.

Welcome, TSgt Henry Tyszler! Our newest violinist arrived from his hometown of Los Angeles, where he was performing before he joined the Air Force Strings. Henry studied at the University of California Los Angeles for his bachelor's degree and at the Eastman School of Music for his master's degree. With his arrival, the Strings are once again fully manned.

In addition to many strolling performances around the Washington, D.C. area, the group is preparing for a few public concerts as the String Orchestra. On July 18, the Strings will appear on the west terrace of the U.S. Capitol, as part of the Summer Concert Series. On August 30, the group will return to Falcon's Landing in Sterling, Virginia, to offer a variety of string orchestra and strolling repertoire. Both concerts are free and open to the public, and tickets are not required. Please check the calendar for specific concert information.

As the Strings continue their full schedule throughout the summer, look forward to reading about our upcoming fall performances in the next issue of *Cadenza*. —TSgt Erin Eyles

High Flight Highlights

Well, it's summertime again in Washington and it's a hot one for sure! However, we didn't let the heat get us down while we busily prepared for the Summer Concert Series. As each year passes, we become increasingly busy in the summer months. Some of our performance venues include the Reston Town Center in Reston, Virginia, Baltimore's Inner Harbor, Allen Pond Park in Bowie, Maryland, and the ever-popular series at the U.S. Capitol. We are also looking forward to being a part of the Independence Day celebration for the city of Miami Beach, Florida. This promises to be an exciting experience as we perform for an estimated crowd of 50,000 people on the boardwalk, prior to a magnificent fireworks display. The second annual Riverfest will give us another opportunity to perform. The festival will take place at the riverfront on Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C.

As we progress through the summer months, we bid a farewell to MSgt Paul Eschliman, who departs for the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama on July 10. He is looking forward to the opportunity to broaden his horizons through this final chapter of professional military education. We wish him all the best and eagerly await

his return in late August. MSgt Eschliman was recently the recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal and we congratulate him on this achievement.

Other recent Meritorious Service Medal recipients from High Flight include SMSgt Mark Tarallo, and MSgts Rob Henley and Michael Pausic. Sergeant Pausic is also to be congratulated for his new assignment as High Flight's public affairs representative.

Looking back, we are pleased to say that our trip to Branson, Missouri, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, was a great success. We received a great response to our latest musical production, which premiered in May. We have the entire group to thank for this; we combined all our individual skills and talents in order to accomplish this and it turned out wonderfully! It just goes to show what you can do collectively when you put your mind to it!

With that, we hope to see you at our upcoming performances. Have a great summer!

—MSgt Shani Prewitt